

January 24, 1977

MEMO TO FILE:

Re: Brush Wellman Inc.  
Topaz Mining Property  
Secs. 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 32,  
T. 12 & 13 S., R. 12 W.  
Juab County, Utah

ACT/027/003

On January 19, 1977, Ron Daniels and Brian Buck inspected this operating open pit mine and were given a tour of the operation by Mr. Kenneth Poulson, Mining Division Manager and Mr. Lee Davis, Chief Mining Engineer for Brush Wellman Inc.

This operation is unique and unprecedented in nature of the ore and the mining process. At the present time the operation consists of three open pits with four nearby ore bodies planned for open pit mining in the future. As the ore is strata bound and dips to the west, the pits have a hanging wall and footwall side. The footwall is in tuffaceous rock and it rapidly weathers to a soft argillaceous soil. The hanging wall is tuff and rhyolite and other than occasional rock falls is steep and clean.

The spoil dumps are designed to be relatively wide and low in geometry and are rounded off and covered with fines from the tuff overburden.

Reclamation of this site will consist of protecting the highwall with a safety berm, rounding all dumps and spreading fines. Test plots of various sorts will be established to determine appropriate revegetation schemes. The pits provide catchment basins for the local runoff and provisions will be made for this valuable post-mining use.

Natural vegetation occurring in the area of the mine is representative of the blackbrush vegetal type. Plants, in order of decreasing occurrence on the mine site are: halogeton, russian thistle, blackbrush, black sagebrush, broom snakeweed, rabbitbrush, shadscale, ephedra, cheatgrass, indian ricegrass, and big sagebrush. Plant cover density was estimated to be about 20% in undisturbed areas. Use by domestic livestock of the area surrounding the mine is minimal and usually takes place while trailing sheep pass the mine.

Certain disturbed areas which have been ~~abandoned~~ for several years show few signs of regenerating plants from existing natural seed sources. To assist in establishing test plots soil samples of the fine-grained overburden cover were obtained for analysis.

DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING

A cooperative effort by:  
Ronald W. Daniels (Plant King)  
Brian W. Buck (Rockhound)

RWD/lm  
BWB/lm